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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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John Erickson

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EXAMINER

LEE, EDMUND H

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1791

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/09/2009

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/747,639	Applicant(s) ERICKSON ET AL.	
	Examiner EDMUND H. LEE	Art Unit 1791	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2008 and 05 December 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,12-45,47-51 and 53-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,4,12-45,47-51 and 53-55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1,3,9,12,14,16,17,21,22,43,44,45,47,52,53,54, and 55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horacek et al (USPN 4389454) in view of the admitted prior art set forth in the instant specification in paragraph 0018. In regard to claims 1, 22,43, and 55, Horacek et al teach all of the claimed limitations (col 2, ln 35-col 3, ln 15; col 7, lns 5-35; col 8, ln 38-col 9, ln 11; and figs 1-3) except the use of a water-based latex composition. The admitted prior art teaches that the urethane-based paint compositions and water-based latex compositions are substitutable alternatives. Since Horacek et al and the admitted prior art are analogous with respect to paint compositions, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the urethane paint composition of Horacek et al with the water-based latex composition of the admitted prior art since they are substitutable alternatives. In regard to claims 3,9,12,14,16,17,21,44,45,47,52,53,and 54, such are taught by Horacek et al.

3. Claims 4, 13,15,18,19,20, 48,49,50, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horacek et al (USPN 4389454) in view of the admitted prior

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art. The above teachings of Horacek et al are incorporated hereinafter. In regard to claim 4, material formulation is well-known in the molding art as an important molding parameter and the desired amount of each component would have been obviously and readily determined through routine experimentation by one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. Further, the claimed amount is generally well-known in the molding art and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the claimed amount of the hydroxide in the process of Horacek et al in order to ensure good bonding. In regard to claim 13, such is well-known in the molding as an effective means for applying a material. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to spray the hydroxide onto the paint layer of Horacek et al in order to reduce molding complexity. In regard to claim 15, such are well-known in the molding art as an effective means for initiating the formation of polyurethane. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to initiate the formation of the polyurethane of Horacek et al by one of the claimed methods in order improve the process efficiency of Horacek et al. In regard to claim 18, Horacek et al teach all of the claimed limitations expect reaction injection molding the polyurethane layer. Reaction injection molding PU is well-known in the molding art for its efficiency. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to reaction injection mold the PU of Horacek et al in order to reduce cycle time without compromising quality. In regard to claims 19-20, such are well-known in the molding art as an effective means for initiating the formation of

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polyurethane. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to initiate the formation of the polyurethane of Horacek et al by one of the claimed methods in order improve the process efficiency of Horacek et al.

4. Claims 23-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horacek et al (USPN 4389454) in view of the admitted prior art. In regard to claim 23, Horacek et al teach the claimed limitations (col 2, ln 35-col 3, ln 15; col 7, lns 5-35; col 8, ln 38-col 9, ln 11; and figs 1-3) except using a water-based latex composition. It should be noted that the admitted prior art (paragraph 0018) has been added to the rejection to merely illustrate that urethane-based paint compositions and water-based latex paint compositions are substitutable. The use of a specific material is a mere obvious matter of choice dependent on the desired final product and of little patentable consequence to the claimed process since it is not a manipulative feature or step of the claimed process. Further, the claimed material is a well-known substitute for polyurethane-based materials as supported by the admitted prior art. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a water-based latex as a substitute for the PU of Horacek et al in order to meet consumer needs. In regard to claim 24, the use of a specific material is a mere obvious matter of choice dependent on the desired final product and of little patentable consequence to the claimed process since it is not a manipulative feature or step of the claimed process. Further, the claimed material is well-known substitute for sodium

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hydroxide. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use potassium hydroxide instead of sodium hydroxide since they are substitutable alternatives. In regard to claim 25, material formulation is well-known in the molding art as an important molding parameter and the desired amount of each component would have been obviously and readily determined through routine experimentation by one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. Further, the claimed amount is generally well-known in the molding art and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the claimed amount of the hydroxide in the process of Horacek et al in order to ensure good bonding. In regard to claims 26-27, such are taught by Horacek et al (col 2, ln 35-col 3, ln 15; col 7, lns 5-35; col 8, ln 38-col 9, ln 11; and figs 1-3). In regard to claim 28, reaction injection molding PU is well-known in the molding art for its efficiency. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to reaction injection mold the PU of Horacek et al in order to reduce cycle time without compromising quality. In regard to claim 29, such is taught by Horacek et al (modified) (col 2, ln 35-col 3, ln 15; col 7, lns 5-35; col 8, ln 38-col 9, ln 11; and figs 1-3). In regard to claim 30, Horacek et al (modified) teaches the claimed limitations except mixing in a closed mold. Mixing components within a mold as opposed to outside a mold is well-known in the molding art as an effective means for initiating the formation of polyurethane. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to initiate the formation of the polyurethane of Horacek et al within the mold in order improve the process efficiency of

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Horacek et al. In regard to claim 31, such is taught by Horacek et al (col 2, ln 35-col 3, ln 15; col 7, lns 5-35; col 8, ln 38-col 9, ln 11; and figs 1-3). In regard to claim 32, such is taught by Horacek et al (modified) (col 2, ln 35-col 3, ln 15; col 7, lns 5-35; col 8, ln 38-col 9, ln 11; and figs 1-3).

5. Claims 33-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horacek et al (USPN 4389454) in view of the admitted prior art. In regard to claim 23, Horacek et al teach the claimed limitations (col 2, ln 35-col 3, ln 15; col 7, lns 5-35; col 8, ln 38-col 9, ln 11; and figs 1-3) except using a water-based latex composition. It should be noted that the admitted prior art (paragraph 0018) has been added to the rejection to merely illustrate that urethane-based paint compositions and water-based latex paint compositions are substitutable. The use of a specific material is a mere obvious matter of choice dependent on the desired final product and of little patentable consequence to the claimed process since it is not a manipulative feature or step of the claimed process. Further, the claimed material is a well-known substitute for polyurethane-based materials as supported by the admitted prior art. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a water-based latex as a substitute for the PU of Horacek et al in order to meet consumer needs. In regard to claim 34, the use of a specific material is a mere obvious matter of choice dependent on the desired final product and of little patentable consequence to the claimed process since it is not a manipulative feature or step of the claimed process. Further, the claimed material is well-known substitute for sodium

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hydroxide. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use potassium hydroxide instead of sodium hydroxide since they are substitutable alternatives. In regard to claim 35, material formulation is well-known in the molding art as an important molding parameter and the desired amount of each component would have been obviously and readily determined through routine experimentation by one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. Further, the claimed amount is generally well-known in the molding art and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the claimed amount of the hydroxide in the process of Horacek et al in order to ensure good bonding. In regard to claims 36-37, such are taught by Horacek et al (col 2, ln 35-col 3, ln 15; col 7, lns 5-35; col 8, ln 38-col 9, ln 11; and figs 1-3). In regard to claim 38, reaction injection molding PU is well-known in the molding art for its efficiency. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to reaction injection mold the PU of Horacek et al in order to reduce cycle time without compromising quality. In regard to claim 39, such is taught by Horacek et al (modified) (col 2, ln 35-col 3, ln 15; col 7, lns 5-35; col 8, ln 38-col 9, ln 11; and figs 1-3). In regard to claim 40, Horacek et al (modified) teaches the claimed limitations except mixing in a closed mold. Mixing components within a mold as opposed to outside a mold is well-known in the molding art as an effective means for initiating the formation of polyurethane. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to initiate the formation of the polyurethane of Horacek et al within the mold in order improve the process efficiency of

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Horacek et al. In regard to claim 41, such is taught by Horacek et al (col 2, ln 35-col 3, ln 15; col 7, lns 5-35; col 8, ln 38-col 9, ln 11; and figs 1-3). In regard to claim 42, such is taught by Horacek et al (modified) (col 2, ln 35-col 3, ln 15; col 7, lns 5-35; col 8, ln 38-col 9, ln 11; and figs 1-3).

6. Claims 48,49, 50, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Horacek et al (USPN 4389454) in view of the admitted prior art. The above teachings of Horacek et al are incorporated hereinafter. In regard to claim 48, material formulation is well-known in the molding art as an important molding parameter and the desired amount of each component would have been obviously and readily determined through routine experimentation by one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. Further, the claimed amount is generally well-known in the molding art and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the claimed amount of the hydroxide in the process of Horacek et al in order to ensure good bonding. In regard to claim 49, such is taught by Horacek et al (modified) since Horacek et al teach mixing the hydroxide into the paint composition prior to applying the paint composition to the mold (col 2, ln 35-col 3, ln 15; col 7, lns 5-35; col 8, ln 38-col 9, ln 11; and figs 1-3) . In regard to claims 50 and 51, such is well-known in the molding as an effective means for applying a material. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to spray the hydroxide onto the paint layer of Horacek et al in order to reduce molding complexity.

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1,3,4,12-45,47-51, and 53-55 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

In regard to Applicant's argument that Horacek et al do not teach a water-based latex paint composition, such has been shown above with the support of the admitted prior art that urethane-based paint compositions and water-based latex paint compositions are substitutable.

In regard to Applicant's argument that the purpose of using alkali metal hydroxide of Horacek et al is different from the instant invention, applicant is reminded that the fact that applicant has recognized another advantage which would flow naturally from following the suggestion of the prior art cannot be the basis for patentability when the differences would otherwise be obvious. See *Ex parte Obiaya*, 227 USPQ 58, 60 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1985).

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following US patents teach the state of the art: 5017634, 4356230, 4314962, 3378531, 3047540, 4800123, and 4486370.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to EDMUND H. LEE whose telephone number is 571.272.1204. The examiner can normally be reached on MONDAY-THURSDAY FROM 9AM-4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571.272.1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EDMUND H. LEE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1791

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